



NASA Weekly Update

Week of September 18-25, 2006

9-25: STS-115 Astronauts Agree Mission Went 'Very Well': After embracing a chance to meet with their families, the STS-115 astronauts finished up their landing day answering questions from the media during a televised news conference. After a good night's sleep in the crew quarters at Kennedy Space Center, Fla., the astronauts returned home to Johnson Space Center in Houston on Friday. There, the crew enjoyed a happy homecoming as thanks for the successful completion of what is quickly being regarded as one of the most complex and productive space missions in history. During the "homecoming" ceremony at Ellington Field, Heide Stefanyshyn-Piper fainted twice during her speech. She is in good health, and it is not uncommon for these type effects to



Safely back on Earth, the STS-115 crew poses at the Shuttle Landing Facility in front of Space Shuttle Atlantis.

happen to astronauts who have just returned to Earth. For more on the STS-115 mission and the upcoming STS-116 mission, visit: <http://www.nasa.gov/shuttle>.

9-22: NASA Astronaut & Administrator Visit China: Like many of her fellow astronauts, Shannon Lucid has marveled at the view from space of China. Having flown in space five times, Lucid, who currently supports



Shannon Lucid and her younger brother Joe with an unidentified Chinese woman.

our human spaceflight missions at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, has extensive experience seeing the world's third largest nation from orbit. But what made those overpasses even more special for Lucid is her heritage as being the only member of the astronaut corps to be born on mainland Chinese soil, in Shanghai. The daughter of Baptist missionaries, J. Oscar and Myrtle Wells, Lucid has returned to the land of her birth, accompanying NASA Administrator Michael D. Griffin on a five-day trip at the invitation of Laiyan Sun, administrator of the China National Space Administration. The trip marks the first time a NASA administrator has visited the country. Griffin is making this visit at the invitation of Laiyan Sun, administrator of the China National Space Administration. His visit runs from Saturday to Thursday. Griffin will tour a number of aerospace facilities. For updates on the NASA administrator's trip to China, visit: http://www.nasa.gov/about/highlights/griffin_china.html.

9-22: NASA Announces New Advisory Council

Members: NASA Administrator Michael Griffin named nine new members to the NASA Advisory Council on Friday, including Dr. Edward David, Jr., Chair of the Science Committee, and Dr. Paul Robinson, Chair of the new Space Operations Committee. The NASA Advisory Council consists of six committees, Aeronautics, Audit and Finance, Exploration, Human Capital, Science, and Space Operations. Council Chairman Harrison H. Schmitt welcomed the new members. For information about the NASA Advisory Council, visit: <http://www.hq.nasa.gov/office/oer/nac>.

9-22: NASA Honors Veteran Gemini-Apollo

Astronaut James McDivitt: NASA will honor former astronaut James (Jim) McDivitt for his involvement in the Gemini and Apollo space programs with the presentation of the Ambassador of Exploration Award. The ceremony is on Friday, Oct. 6, in Ann Arbor, Michigan. For McDivitt's astronaut biographical information, visit:

<http://www.jsc.nasa.gov/Bios/htmlbios/mcdivitt-ja.html>. Taped coverage of the event will air during the NASA TV Video File. For NASA TV streaming video, scheduling and downlink information, visit: <http://www.nasa.gov/ntv>.

9-21: NASA Honors America's First Flight Director

Chris Kraft: NASA will honor Christopher C. Kraft, Jr., for his key involvement in America's space programs with the presentation of the Ambassador of Exploration Award. The ceremony is on Saturday, Sept. 30, in Blacksburg, Virginia. For Kraft biographical information, visit: <http://www.answers.com/topic/christopher-c-kraft-jr>. Video from the event will air as a NASA TV Video File. For NASA TV streaming video, scheduling and digital downlink information visit: <http://www.nasa.gov/ntv>.

9-20: NASA Forms Partnership with Red Planet

Capital, Inc.: NASA has joined with Red Planet Capital, Inc., San Mateo, Calif., in a partnership to help the agency gain access to new and innovative technologies through the venture capital community. Red Planet Capital is a nonprofit organization that will establish a strategic venture capital fund for NASA. For more information on Red Planet Capital, visit: <http://www.redplanetcapital.com>.

Weekly Status Reports



A handover continues aboard the International Space Station, with the 13th crew ending six months aboard and the 14th crew starting six months in orbit.

Joint crew operations continue through next week, until Expedition 13 Commander Pavel Vinogradov, Flight Engineer and NASA Science Officer Jeff Williams, and Spaceflight Participant Anousheh Ansari undock and land their Soyuz spacecraft on Thursday, Sept. 28.

The new crew, Expedition 14 Commander and NASA Science Officer Mike Lopez-Alegria and Flight Engineer Mikhail Tyurin, docked to the complex with Ansari on Wednesday. European Space Agency astronaut Thomas Reiter, who arrived at the station aboard the Space Shuttle Discovery in July and has served as flight engineer for Expedition 13, will remain on the station and join Expedition 14.

Ansari is a U.S. businesswoman spending eight days on the station under a commercial agreement with the Russian Federal Space Agency. The next station status report will be issued after the Expedition 13 crew and Ansari land. For information about the crew's activities and station sighting opportunities, visit: <http://www.nasa.gov/station>.



- **Oct 21-22:** NASA Lunar Lander Analog Challenge, X PRIZE Cup Spaceflight Exposition in Las Cruces, NM
- **NET Oct. 25:** STEREO launch at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, FL.
- **NET Dec 11:** Air Force Research Laboratory's TacSat 2 satellite launch from NASA Wallops Flight Facility, Wallops Island, VA
- **NET Dec 14:** Launch of Space Shuttle Discovery for mission STS-116 to the International Space Station.

Please send A Look at NASA Newsletter to me.

Name _____ Address _____
Title _____ City _____
E-mail address (required) _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
Work Phone _____ Home Phone _____
Please print and Fax to (202) 358-4340
or e-mail Lisa.Gibson@nasa.gov